

GOVERNMENT GOSSIP.

Events of Interest in and About the Departments.

THE PRESIDENT'S CALLERS.

Changes in the Treasury Department—General and Personal.

The Wool Importers.—A large number of prominent representatives of the wool manufacturing and wool importing industries of various portions of the country were at the Treasury to-day, participating in a hearing before Assistant Secretary Fairchild as to the rates of duty to be imposed upon wool, waste, wool, hals, etc.

Treasury Appointments.—The following named persons, having secured a satisfactory recommendation from the committee, have received absolute appointments, viz: Lewis C. Wey of Ohio and Miss Amy E. Wilber of New York to the 5000 class in the office of the Secretary, and Miss Sallie M. Cartwright of Massachusetts to the 2000 class in the office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Cattle-Growers at the White House.—Representative Springer called at the White House this forenoon, accompanied by Messrs. Smith and Sanders of Illinois and Major Towers of Missouri, a committee representing the National Cattle-Growers' Association. The interview between the President and the committee was a most satisfactory one and the committee had occasion to gain some new points in connection with land matters to the West.

The President's Callers.—The President's callers to-day included Senators Whitthorne, Payne, Salisbury, Hawley, Brown, Blackburn, Ransom, Morgan and George, the latter being accompanied by Messrs. Clegg, Barnes and George; Representatives Steele, McCann, Crain, Springer, Anderson, McCrory, Cox of North Carolina, and Hall, Colman, Sumner, Fifth Cavalry; Marshall, Dyess of Ohio, and Hon. Judge R. Boyd, and Dr. M. T. Tibbitts of Kentucky.

The Signal Corps.—Lieutenant General Sheridan says, emphatically, there is no need for a Signal Corps, and that it does not belong to the army. All the signalling necessary for the service is taught at West Point in the army, and the weather reports are purely in the interests of commerce and agriculture, and should be turned over to a civil department. The proposition to transfer the Signal Corps to the War Department is not a serious one, and the details are being considered.

Lieutenant Emory's Article Trip.—Secretary Whitney said this morning, referring to the report that Lieutenant Emory proposed to go North in the Theta, that the United States had something else to do with its vessel, naval officers and sailors besides sending them off on Arctic expeditions. "I will not say, however," continued the Secretary, "that there will be no such expeditions under the present Administration, but certainly not with my consent or from any suggestion on my part. Lieutenant Emory may desire to make such a trip, but he will not receive orders from me in consequence with his wishes."

An Old Claim Revived.—Patent Office officials say that there is nothing in the case of Antonio Mucci, the Italian who claims to have been the first to invent the "telephone." Outlines the principles of the telephone in 1871, Mucci filed papers there, but no drawings accompanied them. Mr. Klatter, chief of the Electrical Division, said to a critic reporter: "There is nothing in the case at all. It has been hashed and rehashed in the papers for years. It was tried by a New Orleans court several years ago and thrown out because the notes of Mucci were made on the blanks of a firm that had been out of existence for years."

Minor and Personal.

It is estimated that the collection of the revenue at the port of Georgetown next year will cost \$7,000.

THE ARMY AND NAVY.

Orders, Leaves, Furloughs, Court-Martial and Personal Notes.

Brigadier-General Bennett, Chief of Ordnance, is setting Secretary of War during the absence in Massachusetts of Secretary Endicott.

Medical Director Jacob S. Duncan, U. S. Navy, will be placed on the retired list next Saturday, January 29, on reaching 62 years of age.

President Cleveland yesterday nominated Rev. William F. Hubbard of New York and Rev. Henry Swift of Dakota to be post chaplains of the army.

Lieutenants Hasbrouck and Cabell, Fourth Infantry, who have just been granted three months' extension of their leaves from Washington Territory, intend making a trip to Europe.

By the transfer of El Paso and Fort Bliss, Texas, from the Department of Arizona to the Department of New Mexico, George F. Robinson, paymaster, is also transferred and ordered to report by letter to General Stanley, retaining station at El Paso.

Army Leaves Granted.—First Lieutenant George B. Burnett, Ninth Cavalry, Fort St. Vrain, Utah, and Captain John H. Smith, Captain George S. Wilson, Twelfth Infantry, one month extension; First Lieutenant Joseph W. Duncan, Twenty-first Infantry, two months extension; and Lieutenants Alfred Hasbrouck, Jr., and Henry C. Cabell, Jr., Fourteenth Infantry, three months' extension.

Navy Orders.—Chief Engineer George H. Johnson to duty at the Columbia River Works, Baltimore, to inspect the machinery being built for the new gunboat there to relieve Chief Engineer A. J. Kierstead, who is ordered to the League Island yard; Lieutenant Walter McLean, from the Vermont to the Dolphin, and Lieutenant James H. Sears, from the Naval Observatory to the naval school ship, St. Mary's, at New York; Frederick Houston Ellinger from the New York branch Hydrographic Office to the Dispatch.

Proposed for the Recordship.—Inasmuch as it has been rumored that the President was disposed to nominate another colored man for the position of Recorder of Decree, the name of William H. Smith, Assistant Librarian of the House of Representatives, has been mentioned favorably in connection with the position. He was born a slave in the District, and in his career has been since a valued assistant in the library. Up to 1872 he was a Republican, but since then he has not been active in politics.

Grant-Hallmark Smith.—A copy of the letter of Wm. F. Smith, lately published in Vermont, is made public to-day a correspondence between Grant and Hallmark, dated July, 1861, in which Grant advocates putting Smith in command at Camp Point of Butler, and says Smith is one of the most efficient officers in the service. Butler is alluded to as a "pious old man" and commander, but deficient in execution.

SOCIAL AND SEMI-SOCIAL.

The District Appropriation Bill as Reported to the House.

VARIOUS DETAILS OF THE BILL.

No Appropriation for Massachusetts Avenue or Conny Roads.

The District Appropriation Bill was reported to the House to-day, its recommendations aggregating \$3,679,929, while the estimates were \$4,208,404. The amounts appropriated are as follows:

Salaries and contingent. \$1,214,000
Investment and residue. 1,292,000
Washington aqueduct. 20,000
Public buildings. 20,000
Metropolitan police. 20,000
Police department. 20,000
Health department. 20,000
Interest and sinking fund. 1,212,912
Public works. 10,000
Information and printing. 10,000
Support of insane. 25,000
Charities. 20,000
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Water department, payable to the city. 24,000
The bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The appropriation for improvements of streets and avenues is allotted to the subdivisions of the city, and the streets to be improved are limited to those named in the bill. The streets named are: New York street, from New Jersey avenue to New Hampshire avenue, from Q to Sixteenth northwest. The committee provides that correct pavements be laid under this bill must be equal to the best laid prior to July 1, 1886, and with a base of at least six inches.

No appropriation is made for Massachusetts avenue extension or for other extension of county streets, but appropriation is made for any road that may be opened by reason of the building of a bridge over the Eastern Branch at the foot of Pennsylvania avenue. A new item in the bill is for the improvement and protection of the harbor and river front, the enforcement of laws and regulations, construction and maintenance of wharves and piers, provided that amounts collected for leases and wharf charges be credited alike to the United States and District.

In the school estimates it is provided that there shall be one superintendent for the first six divisions and another for the seventh and eighth divisions. The number of teachers is limited to 674, and specified that eight schools be added to the list of schools. An appropriation is made for the first time for sanitary improvements in old school buildings, and for the construction of new school buildings and additions are specified.

Under the Police Department two night inspectors are provided for, and five privates are added to the force, and the number of patrol wagon drivers increased to three. The extension of the police signal and telephone system to the second or fifth precinct is authorized; \$7,000 is allocated for the District services on ground, and allowance is made for District witness fees and other expenses of defending suits. Provision is made for the purchase of a new fire engine, and power pumping engines for high service in Washington and Georgetown.

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SENATOR GORMAN'S BOMB.

It explodes in the Dominion Capital and Causes a Sensation.

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THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE ACT.

Goings as to Probable Appointments to the Commission.

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WAXEN IN THE SWIM.

The Judge and Mandy as Guests at the White House.

THEIR FIRST STATE DINNER.

The President's Gallantry to the Distinguished Lady from Wayback.

About 5 o'clock Thursday afternoon, Judge Waxen, the Member from Wayback, stepped, youthfully up the steps of his boarding house, leaving on his arm a big package, with the card of a well-known modiste emblazoned on the outer wrapper, and he at once proceeded to his room, where he knew his wife awaited his coming.

"So you fetched my dress!" she said, as he came in. "Well, I was most sure you'd forget it. Men are allers forgetful things that their wives and 'em after."

"Not on a great occasion like this, Mandy," he replied. "I left my arduous duties in the halls of National Capitol."

Representative Payson brings back with him evidence of the recent struggle at Springfield for the Senate, which Mr. Farwell won the prize. "I feel better now than I did when I left," he says, "because the anxiety of the thing is over. Of course I am sorry from a fact of knowing I did the best I could."

CAPITOL CHIT-CHAT.

Men and Measures in Both Houses of Congress.

The public will hereafter be excluded from the Senate Chamber for ten minutes after the adjournment of secret sessions. The conference of the Senate and House called for last evening was not held, as the committee was not ready to report.

Senator Blair has received petitions from the people of the State of Ohio, and has introduced a bill to amend the act relating to the carrying of mails and any necessary work on Sunday under Government contract.

Senator Spooner proposed to ask the consideration of the bill to reduce the price of gas in this city at the earliest opportunity next week.

The Speaker has granted the petition of the lady correspondents to reserve the front row of seats in the private gallery adjoining the great hall for their exclusive use.

It is thought that Allen W. Thurman, son of ex-Senator Thurman, will be appointed as one of the commissioners under the Interstate Commerce bill.

In Congress Yesterday.

The House continued consideration of private bills until 5 o'clock, and at an evening session passed twenty private pension bills.

The Senate in executive session debated the bill to amend the act relating to the carrying of mails and any necessary work on Sunday under Government contract.

Senator Littleberger is understood to have led the opposition, declaring that the revenue of the District would be increased by a single Irish patriot who had sought refuge from English oppression.

STAR-CHAMBER ROWDYISM.

Another illustration of the Beastliness of the Secret Session.

For the second time within less than a fortnight, says a Washington special to the New York Times, the Senate Chamber has been "the scene of a disgraceful row," in which Senators have shouted and yelled over their heads, and the extra-legal power of the police has been used to restore order.

The extension of the police signal and telephone system to the second or fifth precinct is authorized; \$7,000 is allocated for the District services on ground, and allowance is made for District witness fees and other expenses of defending suits. Provision is made for the purchase of a new fire engine, and power pumping engines for high service in Washington and Georgetown.

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President, then to see my wife at the head of this distinguished procession on my arm, and I could make no other happier than to follow in the humble escort of your charming and accomplished young wife. It is such things as these, Mr. President, as makes a path of honor and glory for the man who is between them that governs them that is governed, and makes a Wayback citizen feel bigger than a king."

A President smiled and took Mrs. W. on his arm, and the Judge with exulting politeness lent his elbow to Mrs. Cleveland's hand, and the company went out to dinner with every question of precedence settled after the most approved civil service reform measures, and in the most gracefully democratic manner.

"Your husband is the most adaptable man I ever associated with in elevated circles," was what the Judge said to Mrs. Cleveland about it.

At the table the Judge and Mrs. Waxen were seated, and he took a special delight in telling her about the things that he had seen and done in the White House. "So you fetched my dress!" she said, as he came in. "Well, I was most sure you'd forget it. Men are allers forgetful things that their wives and 'em after."

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